

Japan and Russia. They're off! Japan made the first swat count.

"Jo Jo," the dog faced boy is dead, but private TOM still lives.

Now wasn't that just awful, them things private TOM said about us?

The back bone of winter seems to be very flexible, but it will not break.

There were just two crashes of "the good old summer time"—thunder—Sunday morning.

Saturday will be St Valentine's day and there is no telling what little Dan Cupid will be up to.

The ice crop isn't sympathizing any with the Delaware peach buds that are said to be badly frozen.

It is an easy matter to reform. The rub comes in in convincing the needy that they are proper subjects for reformation.

No man ought to attempt an autobiography until he has run for some local office and found out who and what he really is.

China and Korea can scarcely be said to be in a position of standing off, and watching the fun between Russia and Japan.

There are so many reasons why it is nicer to be rich than poor that it is really a surprise that so many of us persist in remaining poor.

After Japan had sunk three of her war ships and captured several others the Russians woke up and declared that "a state of war exists."

The decision that places dressed frogs legs on the duty list as poultry has more basis than some people are prone to give it credit with. Don't frogs lay eggs?

Among the applicants for license in this county this spring there are said to be several who were turned down by Judge SMITH, in Clearfield recently.

Many a man who thinks he has everything at his command wakes up to the realization that the world is too full of would be commanders to make such a thing possible.

If what the Gazette says is true the Democratic nominee for treasurer of Bellefonte is a bold, bad, buccaneer and he ought to be slapped on the wrist, real hard twice.

So far as incidents happening about Port Arthur lately are concerned the Russian bear must realize that there is a bull market in her battleships—they are all going up.

Hunting lions in Africa will no longer be the height of dangerous sport since two New York firemen put two of the mighty monarchs of the forest to flight with a stream of water.

If there had been more foreign wars and less geography when the present generation went to school there would be less trouble today locating where the Japs and Russians are really fighting.

In the Russian-Japan war the American mind will halt between the long friendship existing between our government and Russia and admiration for the plucky little Japs who have "squared off" for such a much larger foe.

Of course everyone understands that such terrible fires as caused a loss of over one hundred million dollars in Baltimore during the fore part of the week should not be possible, but the real question is how to make them impossible.

Governor PENNYPACKER has "shinned up the tree" in the face of the out-break of righteous indignation over the unearthing of his scheme to get onto the Supreme bench. He is likely to stay up there until "cousin MATT" tells him he can come down.

The Massachusetts Legislature is going to pass an act that will make the quart bottle hold a quart. It will be a good act in some respects, but those who are most interested in the exact volume of contents in a quart bottle are the ones who would fare the best if it held even less than it does.

MARK HANNA, as a prominent public character, is the object of many a cruel and vicious fling from his political opponents, but as a citizen and a man stricken with fever his political foes join with his closest associates in the earnest hope that his life may be spared.

The Czar of all the Russias is the distinguished potentate who first agitated the Hague peace tribunal. A piece of Manchuria and China seems to have made him forget all about his first peace pursuit, but we'll bet the Japs gave him on Tuesday sent his mind wandering back towards the Hague.

The North American says Mayor WEAVER, of that city, caught a ton of fish in one day in Florida. How many snookers do you suppose he caught on a certain election day that the gang elected him mayor of Philadelphia? That is, how many do you suppose thought he was going to prove a right honest official?

The proposed abandonment of circus parades will be a cause of real regret to the many who enjoy every feature and exciting incident of "circus day in town." But it will bring the keenest disappointment to the fellow who is in the habit of showing his little folks the parade and making them believe they have seen the whole show.

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Philadelphia and the South.

Those esteemed Philadelphia contemporaries which are madly inveighing against the Pennsylvania Railroad because of some fancied fault which impairs the trade relations between that city and the South have poorly diagnosed the cause of their commercial malady.

This condition has changed, unquestionably, but not on account of any "cut-off" regulations of the Pennsylvania Railroad or discrimination of any description against that city by that company.

Before the war of the rebellion the South came to Philadelphia with confidence of a tried and trusted friendship. The people of that section came to that natural gateway to the northern manufacturing region in a spirit of brotherhood certain to find sympathy in their troubles and secure justice in their transactions.

The saving sense of justice in the Representatives of other cities and sections rescued the people of the South ultimately from the misery which the Philadelphia Representatives in Congress would have heaped on them and their own courage and fortitude was rapidly working out recuperation when the malignity of the Republican party against them took another form.

Since the death of Mr. RANDALL, except for a short time while Mr. McALESTER was permitted to represent the 3d district of that city, the unanimous vote of its Representatives in Congress has been cast for every vicious means intended to wrong or rob the South, even to the voting out of Congress of every Representative from that section against whose election a rapscallion could be found to make a contest.

And this work of wrong to the South by its Congressmen has been endorsed and re-endorsed by the public sentiment of Philadelphia. And those who have done this thing wonder why the South passes by their doors to do its trading.

New York appears to have had a different conception of its duty toward that section. Without condoning the crime of rebellion, without indicating sympathy with wrong, without in the least measure modifying a just reprehension of what had occurred, the broad mind of that great city was moved to a proper appreciation of conditions and her Representatives in Congress spoke with the tongue of eloquence in behalf of the principles of justice.

for mercy as well as justice. Baltimore, rapidly developing commercial character, adopted the same line and it is small wonder that under the circumstances the narrow bigotry of Philadelphia should ultimately turn the friendly feelings of the South into a sentiment of hostility which finds expression in transferring business relations to other cities.

Besides, the people of the South are not blind to conditions as they exist in Philadelphia or oblivious of incidents of the past. They know as well as we understand that the business interests of Philadelphia have been prostituted to the base purposes of debauching elections in order that bogus Republican majorities may be created in Congress to stifle the voice of the South in the councils of the Nation.

No, the schedule of the Pennsylvania railroad is not responsible for the transference of the trade of the South from Philadelphia to other commercial centres. If any influence on earth could hold the people of the South to their old friendship for Philadelphia it is the Pennsylvania railroad. The splendid equipment and magnificent management of that great corporation challenges the admiration of the whole world and its intimate association with the Philadelphia of the time when it was the mecca of the South would naturally appeal to the people of that section.

Philadelphians, "corrupt and contented," wants the patronage of a people which she has outraged most villainously and some not too discriminating newspapers condemn the Pennsylvania railroad because the cupidity of certain citizens is disappointed. Philadelphia, which hasn't enough civic pride to enforce the law against self-confessed ballot box stuffers, covets business which it has driven away, and rails against the only institution which gives it character, for the reason that its passion is not fed.

Roosevelt's Passion for Tinsel.

If it were not fraught with such grave danger there could be nothing more amusing than the pomp with which the President always endeavors to surround himself. Like the savages in fastnesses as yet unexplored or untouched by the wand of civilization, he takes to gaudy decorations and highly colored uniforms. At his receptions he loves to see the trappings and tinsel which are essential to European courts and under his direction and influence all the simplicity which characterized the elegance of our early national life is disappearing.

Of all the receptions at the White House during the years since they were first introduced, the simplest but most dignified has been that to the Judges of the Supreme court. The guests of honor, themselves distinguished men, invariably have worn the conventional costume of an American gentleman, since the ruffles and knee breeches have gone out of fashion, the black broadcloth swallow-tail. Knowing that the Diplomats, out of compliment to the President's honored guests, have adopted the same dress.

Of course, as President BAER of the Reading railroad once said, a request from the President is equivalent to a command

and the Diplomats come to the reception in question radiant in gold lace and gaudy trimmings and to show his appreciation of their obedience the President directed that they be put ahead of the guests of honor in the line of procession to the receiving chamber. It was a beastly breach of etiquette and a gross insult to the jurists, but what did ROOSEVELT care so long as his show was made attractive by the bright uniforms? Like an Indian on the frontier he gratifies his passion for decoration at the expense of decency, as well as decorum.

Absurdities of Confused Senators.

There was an interesting debate in the United States Senate the other day in which Senators TILLMAN, of South Carolina, LODGE, of Massachusetts, and PLATT, of Connecticut, participated. It related to the appointment of WILLIAM D. CRUIK, negro, to the office of collector of the port of Charleston, South Carolina, and is reported on pages 1696, 1697, 1698 and 1699 of the Congressional Record.

Mr. TILLMAN said he wanted to ask the Senator from Massachusetts "whether or not such a case has ever been known? I have been examining pretty closely, but so far I have been unable to discover a precedent for a nomination and appointment the same minute to any office subject to the approval and confirmation of the Senate. Can the Senator recall one?"

Mr. LODGE. "Will the Senator allow me ask him a question?" Mr. TILLMAN. "With pleasure."

Mr. LODGE. "Mr. President, the President of the Senate, on the 7th of December, when he declared the extra session of the Senate adjourned without delay, left the chair and turned to the chaplain. Then we had prayer—the regular opening of the session."

Mr. TILLMAN. "All right; I do not want to quibble and I am not splitting hairs here. I am endeavoring to get somebody to stand up here in the light of common sense and declare that there was a recess of the Senate in the view of the constitution during that proceeding."

Mr. PLATT, of Connecticut. Well, Mr. President, if there was no recess, then is it not true that the recess appointments which have been made, ran over into the so-called regular session?"

Mr. TILLMAN. Why, Mr. President, the Senator from Connecticut is too good a lawyer to ask me a question like that. The Senator from Connecticut must understand that our record shows that there was the end of a session. We are not discussing the question of a recess. Do not mix the words as the Secretary of War has endeavored to do in his special pleading."

We have gone to the pains to reproduce all this stuff from the Congressional Record in order to show to what beggarly expedients Republican Senators are driven in order to sustain the absurdities of the cowboy in the White House. Grammar school boys in a debating society would hardly resort to such petty foggery as Senators LODGE and PLATT indulged on that occasion and both are scholarly and able men. But they don't even agree with each other. It will be noticed that LODGE accepts the President's silly notion of a "constructive recess," while PLATT has adopted the suggestion of Senator ALLISON that it be put upon the basis of a merger of the two sessions and therefore the nominations made during the real recess hold until there is an actual adjournment including probably a trip home. Unfortunately for that theory, however, the constitution says "until the end of the session" and not until there is a recess and the end of the session was proclaimed in the declaration of the President pro tempore that "the time having arrived for the assembling of the regular session of the fifty-eighth Congress, I therefore declare the extra session adjourned sine die."

ROOSEVELT keeps on he will have every Republican Senator in an insane asylum.

The Hon. J. W. KEPLER, of Pine Grove Mills, was in town on Tuesday night and while here announced his candidacy for re-election to the Legislature. His record during the last session will have heard the closest scrutiny and his energies for the Pennsylvania State College, the Philadelphia and Bellefonte hospitals are enough in themselves to establish a good claim for his re-election.

Two Significant Statements.

Auditor General HARDENBERGH'S annual report, a general summary of which has been published in the daily papers, is significant on account of two statements. The first is that at no time during the year covered in the report has the State Treasurer's monthly statement shown a balance in the treasury of less than \$8,000,000 in the general fund and that for ten months the balance has not been less than \$10,000,000. The other is that the "burdens of taxation, so far as can be consistently done, have been taken from the farmer, the laborer and the workman, and the great majority of the revenue of the State is collected from tax on corporations and personal property."

Of the first proposition little need be said for its iniquity is obvious. The right of government to protect the individual in person and property. That being true every dollar taken from the people in excess of the amount necessary for the maintenance of government and the discharge of its obligations is robbery. According to the report of the Auditor General, therefore, the government of Pennsylvania has taken from the people \$10,000,000 more, during the present year, than it had a right to take and consequently, instead of protecting the people in their property, as its obligations required, it has robbed them to the vast amount expressed.

With respect to the other proposition the Auditor General is simply absurd as every intelligent school boy in the Commonwealth could point out to him. It is true that most of the taxes are levied on corporations but the corporation managers charge them back to the users of the corporations and the farmers and merchants pay through increased charges for carrying and the "laborers and workmen" through decreases in wages. When in the pioneer period of the country farmers and workmen were obliged to be content with such rudimentary education as is expressed in the "three Rs" they could be fooled with such rubbish as the Auditor General uses. But the improvement of the public schools has broadened their information and they know better now.

The War in the East.

The war in the far East has begun and until one or the other of two very stubborn antagonists yields to reason the work of destruction will proceed with great vigor and success and it may be predicted that within a year the world will be at least a billion dollars poorer. What powers other than those at present involved will participate in the operations it is impossible to even conjecture. It may confidently be said that Japan relies on Great Britain to help her out and it is about equally certain that in the event of such interposition France and probably Germany will take a hand on the other side. The outlook, therefore is for a conflict of vast proportions and immense destructiveness.

Singularly enough this fearful conflict has begun without even the shadow of reason. That is to say Russia has entered upon an enterprise which is certain to entail vast losses in support of a claim which is not only unjust but absurd. In other words having stolen from the Chinese Empire the province of Manchuria the government of the Czar now proposes to seize the Kingdom of Korea for the reason that in possession of an enemy it would be a dangerous strategic point. On the other hand Japan proposes to occupy or at least control Korea for the same reason and thus the persons and property of a people are made a subject of traffic or quarrel between two Empires, neither of which has a shadow of a claim.

All this is outrageous of course but it is in line with the tendencies of the times. When men were more conscientious and rulers more just the small nation was as secure in its rights and property as the more powerful. For example, a dozen years ago this country, built upon the rock of conscience and maintained within the lines of justice, would no more have thought of menacing the weakest Republic in the South American group than it would of sending a fleet of air ships to invade the moon. But now our war Lord, booted and spurred, conspires with adventurers to look a Republic which we are under treaty obligations to protect and refuses to obey the command of Congress for the evidence of his turpitude.

Favorite Sons Are Not Always Favorites.

At a dinner at the Manhattan club in New York Judge Parker was hailed triumphantly as the next President of the United States, but Tammany has not yet committed itself and is giving strong indications of looking in other directions. Some of the Tammany men talk openly and unrebuked of other candidates. New York will learn from Mr. Murphy who her favorite son is—her favorite Democratic son is. She may never know who her favorite Republican son is; Mr. Root admits that he is not Theodore Roosevelt, and yet the State Delegation to Chicago may support him for want of some one else.

Spawls from the Keystone.

Northampton county has 20,050 school children between the ages of 6 and 16 years.

Editor Watts, of the Clearfield Monitor sails from New York, March 6th, on a two month's visit to the Holy Land.

Mrs. Fred H. Leederman, of Williamsport, whose husband died last week of small-pox, has developed the disease, and is confined to a room in her home on Spruce street, that city.

The 51st annual convocation of the Pennsylvania Knights Templar will be held in York, May 23rd, 24th and 25th. On this occasion it is expected that fully half of the 76 commanderies of the state will be there, with about 2,500 members.

About two hundred and fifty persons visited the Mifflin county jail on visitors day. It is the duty of the sheriff to search all visitors, and in doing so three gallons of whiskey, besides knives and revolvers, were found in the pockets of the visitors.

Because he had been charged by his wife with cruelty to her and their children, Harry Trout, of Pottstown, is now accused of having poured five buckets of cold water from the roof down the stovepipe, causing devastation to the Trout kitchen.

The local subscribers of the United Telephone and Telegraph company at Selinsgrove, are up in arms against the company for reducing the 30-mile limit agreed upon. If the company insists upon its present restrictions all the Selinsgrove phones will go out.

George Bell, of Williamsport, formerly United States marine, has offered his services to the Japanese government in the war between that country and Russia. Mr. Bell has spent many months in Japan and China in the service of the United States and is well acquainted with those countries.

Godfrey Hinkal, aged 65 years, made an unsuccessful attempt to commit suicide at the home of his niece, Mrs. Louise Marks, in Cullumville, Nippessee valley, at 9 o'clock Saturday morning. He cut his throat with a razor, making a bad wound, but Dr. Welker arrived in time to save his life.

One school in Wayne township, Mifflin county, has been closed for three weeks because the stove is out of repair and dangerous to the building. Strangely enough, the Newton Hamilton Watchmen is disposed to make a fuss and wants to know what sort of school directors Wayne township has.

John K. Courter, whose home is in Clinton county, says he has solved the secret of tempering copper. He has a sample plate which he has sharpened to an edge that will cut wood. He says that he also has a knife blade of copper with which he can shave. He also has a hatchet and several chisels.

A call has been issued for the surviving members of the famous 148th regiment to attend a reunion, rather a business meeting, at Bellefonte, Feb. 24th and 25th. The principal reason for assembling is to make the final arrangement for the publication of the story of the regiment which has been in preparation for over a year.

The will of A. F. Boynton, of Clearfield, was probated Saturday. It provides that the sum of \$1000 shall be paid yearly to his aged parents and that the residue of his fortune, estimated at \$300,000, goes to the Missionary society of the Methodist Episcopal church as trustee, the revenues therefrom to be paid his widow during her life. She is appointed the executrix of the will. The bequest is one of the largest ever left for religious purposes in the state.

Rev. A. B. Hooven, a well-known member of the Central Pennsylvania conference of the M. E. church, died at his home in DuBois on Sunday night, after an illness of a few days. He was 71 years old and had been in the traveling ministry, a member of the Central Pennsylvania conference, since 1869. For the last four years he had been superannuated. He was a truly good man and his works do follow him. He is survived by his wife and three children.

Dr. J. M. Dumm, of Mackeyville, has an orchard of 3000 peach trees and after the recent cold snap he was of the opinion that the buds had been greatly damaged as they cannot withstand a temperature lower than from 15 to 20 degrees below zero. This week he removed a number of branches from different trees in his orchard and carefully examined over 100 buds, all of which were frozen, this confirming his fears. Hence it is the opinion of Dr. Dumm that the peach crop not only of this section, but all through Pennsylvania will be a total failure.

The wreck of the Cleveland and Cincinnati express a mile west of Bellwood about 5 o'clock Friday morning, as it was speeding westward, might have been much more serious than it was. A wheel of the tender to the engine burst and all of the cars of the train were derailed and dragged and jolted over the ties for a couple hundred feet. The train consisted of four Pullman sleepers, two coaches and one baggage car. The passengers all received a severe shaking up, but only one was hurt. Mrs. Charlotte Jago, of Perth Amboy, N. J., was thrown to one side of her berth and in some way sustained a fracture of the right thumb. The injury was dressed by a doctor on the train, and when a new train was made up the lady with the other passengers proceeded on her way West. All the cars were more or less damaged, and had to be shopped for repairs.

Daniel G. Shemery, an employee of the Williamsport nail works on the south side, had a narrow escape from drowning Monday afternoon while he was thawing out the end of a discharge steam pipe which is enclosed in a wooden box on the bank of the river. The sudden rise in the river, which was caused by the giving away of the ice jam at Jersey Shore a short time previous, caused the box in which Mr. Shemery was standing to be engulfed by the rushing water so quickly that he failed to immediately realize his perilous position. A few moments later he was obliged to dive out of the box through the opening at the bottom and swim to the surface in muskrat fashion in order to save his life. The box is about three feet square and six feet high. The top is covered with heavy planks. The only opening is a small aperture at the bottom for the purpose of allowing the steam to escape.